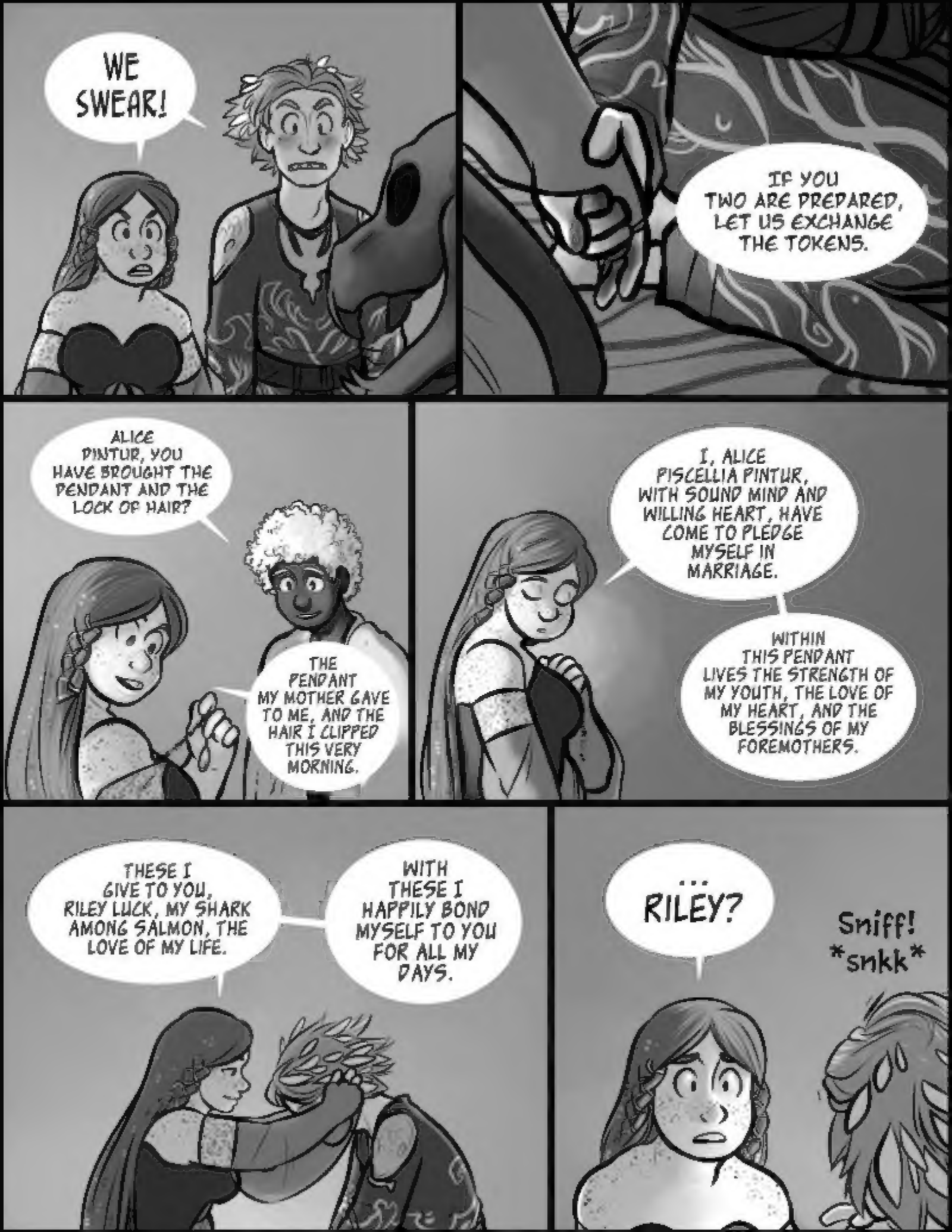
ARE WE ALL READY?
READY.
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TOGETHER TODAY TO COMMEMORATE ONE OF THE OLDEST FORMS OF MAGIC IN OUR WORLD.
IT IS A MAGIC GIFTED BY GOD, FUELED BY LOVE, ANCIENT AS THE STARS.
THIS MAGIC TAKES TWO LIVES AND TRANSFORMS THEM INTO ONE.
A SINGLE LIVING FORCE, FORMED BY THE LOVE AND DETERMINATION OF THE WILLING.

LET THIS MARRIAGE BRING JOY AND PROSPERITY TO YOU AND ALL AROUND YOU.
YOU ARE A TEAM WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THROUGH YOUR UNION.
LET YOUR MINDS WORK IN TANDEM, RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S THOUGHTS EVEN AS YOU LEARN TO COMPROMISE.
LET YOUR HEARTS LOVE EACH OTHER, EVEN AS THE THRILL OF INFATUATION FADES AND MATURES INTO SOMETHING STRONG AND WONDERFUL.
LET YOUR MORTAL BODIES SERVE AND PROTECT EACH OTHER'S, AND WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THOSE YOU ARE CALLED TO CARE FOR.

DO YOU SWEAR TO TOGETHER UPHOLD THESE VALUES IN YOUR MARRIAGE?
WE SWEAR.
YET NO MARRIAGE IS WITHOUT ITS TRIALS AND SORROWS.
THERE WILL BE FRICTION. ARGUMENTS NO ONE CAN WIN. CARELESS WORDS THAT LEAD TO BITTERNESS.
THERE WILL BE DAYS WHERE LOVE LIES COLD IN YOUR HEARTS, AND COMPASSION IS DRAWN UP WITH DIFFICULTY, LIKE WATER FROM A WELL.
YOUR BODIES WILL KNOW WEAKNESS AND SICKNESS. THERE WILL BE THAT FINAL LOSS, THE PRICE OF LOVING ANYTHING IN THIS MORTAL LIFE.
WILL YOU SWEAR TO STAND BY EACH OTHER THROUGH THESE TRIALS? ACCEPT THE SORROWS THAT COME WITH LOVE AS WELL AS THE JOYS?


WE SWEAR!
IF YOU TWO ARE PREPARED, LET US EXCHANGE THE TOKENS.
ALICE PINTUR, YOU HAVE BROUGHT THE PENDANT AND THE LOCK OF HAIR?
THE PENDANT MY MOTHER GAVE TO ME, AND THE HAIR I CLIPPED THIS VERY MORNING.
I, ALICE PISCELLIA PINTUR, WITH SOUND MIND AND WILLING HEART, HAVE COME TO PLEDGE MYSELF IN MARRIAGE.
WITHIN THIS PENDANT LIVES THE STRENGTH OF MY YOUTH, THE LOVE OF MY HEART, AND THE BLESSINGS OF MY FOREMOTHERS.
THESE I GIVE TO YOU, RILEY LUCK, MY SHARK AMONG SALMON, THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.
WITH THESE I HAPPILY BOND MYSELF TO YOU FOR ALL MY DAYS.
...
RILEY?
Sniff!
snkk

SNIFFLE HNnnn...
OH, LOVE...
I'm sorry *hic* It's just...
...I never really thought something like this could happen to someone like me.
INHALE I, Riley Maximus Luck, with sound mind and willing heart, have come to pledge myself in marriage.
Within this stone lives the passion of my inner beast, the love of my human heart, and what wisdom I can scrape together between the two.
These I give to you, the fisher girl who caught my heart, the one I've sought all these years.
With these I happily bond myself to you for all my days.

THEN STAND UP TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A MARRIED COUPLE.
LET THE MAGIC UNITE YOU, AS IT UNITES THE STARS.
YOU ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE.

SIIIP...
Are you trying not to be weird? Because you're being weird.
I'M NOT BEING WEIRD!
I'M JUST THINKING OF WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY TO HER.
I'VE NEVER PUT MY FOOT SO FAR INTO MY OWN MOUTH. HOW CAN I MAKE HER TAKE ME SERIOUSLY AFTER THAT?
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME ANGLE, SOME MAGIC WORDS I CAN SAY TO FIX THIS.
Angie? Anansi doesn't do angles. She doesn't need future sight to spot fakers.
With her, it's sit crooked and talk straight or step out.
SHIFT

I SEE... TWO HEARTY CUBS... BORN AFTER THE FIRST RAIN OF SPRING.
Congrats! Ask what their genders will be!
OH, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT. ALL I WANT IS A HAPPY, AND HEALTHY FIRST LITTER.
GENDER CAN BE HARD TO SEE ANYWAY. PERHAPS IF-
THUMP!
THERE YOU ARE... I CAN'T CALL YOU CHARLIE ANYMORE. URU, RIGHT? MR. URU?
PHULBIRT.

PHILBIRT FAIRPLAY. THAT'S MY REAL NAME.
MY NANA WAS BETTER AT NAMING CATS THAN BABIES.
THE FIRST TIME I EVER STOLE SOMETHING, IT WAS A LITTLE OLD LADY'S PURSE I SNATCHED WHEN I WAS SIX.
I WAS SO SCARED, WHEN IT TURNED OUT IT WAS ONLY FULL OF HARD CANDIES I CRIED.
MY FRIENDS CALLED ME THE LOCAL SLANG TERM FOR A CRY BABY-- 'URH'.
FUNNY, SOMEHOW THAT SEEMED LIKE A LESS EMBARRASSING NAME THAN PHILBIRT.
I KNOW THIS ISN'T HOW APOLOGIES ARE SUPPOSED TO WORK...
...BUT I WAS AN IDIOT TO YOU EARLIER, AND I THOUGHT WE COULD TRADE: FOUR EMBARRASSING TRUTHS FOR FOUR AWFUL PUNS.
THEN, ONCE WE WERE SQUARE, YOU MIGHT TALK TO ME.